



**County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Social Services**



Philip L. Browning
Director

**DPSS/SHERIFF HOMELESS RELEASE PROJECT
FACT SHEET**

On April 4, 2006, the Board of Supervisors approved the DPSS/Sheriff Homeless Release Project, which is an expansion of the current Twin Towers Project. The DPSS/Sheriff Homeless Release Pilot Project was developed and implemented as a result of a mutual and collaborative effort between DPSS and the Sheriff Department to prevent and reduce homelessness in the County.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

DPSS staff began processing General Relief (GR), CalWORKs (CW), and Food Stamp (FS) applications; and Medi-Cal referrals for homeless individuals being released from Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) effective August 15, 2006 and Men's Central Jail (MCJ) effective August 22, 2006. DPSS intake eligibility staff travel from South Central and Civic Center District Offices to the detention facilities to process application referrals received from the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department's in-house Community Transition Unit (CTU) staff, to interview homeless inmates being released and potentially eligible for GR, FS, and CW. Upon release, CRDF inmates are issued bus tokens (by the Sheriff Department), to travel to South Central District #27. In addition, inmate/applicants are given a referral, which includes traveling directions to the District Office to complete the application process and receive benefits the same day. Upon release, MCJ inmates are issued benefits through the Cashier Operation located at MCJ.

COURIER SERVICE

Effective September 2006, DPSS benefits are couriered to CRDF from South Central District, on an as needed basis, for individuals who may have a mental health concern that would make it difficult for him/her to reach the District Office via the Watts Dash, and for individuals who are released late in the afternoon who would not likely arrive at the District Office timely if they had ridden the Watts Dash.

CASHIER OPERATION

Effective March 15, 2007, the Cashier Operation was implemented in the Community Transition Unit, at Men's Central Jail. The Community Transition Unit houses one Cashier, one Supervising Clerk, and one SFIS Clerk. One Eligibility Worker from the Homeless Release Unit (Civic Center) reports daily to MCJ to secure signatures on the Statement of Facts and other documents, and explain to the participants their rights and responsibilities. Upon release, the applicant's case will be processed and benefits issued on-site. Inmates released after hours will be referred to the District Office for application completion and benefit issuance.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The projected cost in the DPSS Assistance budget is \$592,059 (for the first year), with ongoing annual Assistance cost projected at \$747,864. Administrative cost for staffing one unit (seven Eligibility Workers, one Eligibility Supervisor and one clerk) at both CRDF and MCJ will be \$348,949 per year. Both the Assistance and Administrative costs are Net County Cost.